

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Rumania	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Bucharest Youth Festival	DATE DISTR.	9 December 1953
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1. At the frontier the Hungarian soldiers were replaced by Rumanian soldiers who were completely armed. Even at Curtici (Rumanian frontier town) the big difference between Rumanians and Hungarians was revealed to the travelers. The Rumanians were better dressed and cleaner. It can be said that the officers were almost elegant. Also the discipline among the Rumanian soldiers seemed to be much stricter. After a lieutenant had collected their passports, a frontier agent went through the cars asking questions for customer forms and papers although there was no baggage check.

2. Since the stop at Curtici lasted several hours, they had enough time to chat with the large number of people who were there.

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all these people were fervent Communists and the only people permitted to see the delegations because they did not cease to praise the new organization and the marvelous life of the RPR. Nevertheless, they threw envious looks at the food packages that were given to the delegations. They began to distribute some chocolate and biscuits to children who were there. After a short time these children were chased away by civilian officials who said to them, "What will the strangers think of you?" All along the railroad line up to Bucharest women and children were begging for bread. Although the leaders of this delegation had strictly forbidden their members to do it, the majority of the followers threw their food packages to the women and children who flung themselves upon them. Several showed the delegates by signs that they were hungry.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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3. Although a very good first impression had been acquired at the border, the majority of the delegates soon became skeptical. After nightfall they crossed the town of Alba Iulia where they noticed some brightly lighted barracks just to the side of the railroad about 10 kilometers from the town. It was only at Bucharest that [] 400 people, formerly deported to the Danube-Black Sea Canal, were being held there in a camp enclosed with barbed wire. 25X1
4. The delegation went through several stations decorated with flags and streamers and heard dancing music playing. At noon on 2 August 1953 they arrived at Bucharest at the Mogosoaia Station where everything had been prepared to receive them. [] the welcoming group was made up only of active members of the RPR who had obtained permission to go inside the station. These people as well as a large number of children had been quartered in schools for several days before their arrival and had been fed, and taught what they should say to the strangers. The delegates also noticed that all around the train depot a crowd of curious people had gathered and were forbidden to approach the visitors. However, the guard could not prevent some of the delegates from breaking the line and they were received also by the unauthorized group. It was noticed that this latter reception came from the heart and had not been ordered. Several of the visiting group later said that they had been asked for watches, nylons, shirts, et cetera, [] 25X1
5. When this delegation left Bucharest their train did not return by way of Curtici, but rather by Oradea and Episcopia-Bihor. At Oradea the interpreters who had been put at their disposition for the duration of their sojourn got off the train. The Militia soldiers and Securitate agents in plain clothing (2 to 3 in each car) traveled with them as far as Episcopia-Bihor.

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